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SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (11/04): "TIME FOR AMERICA TO  
LEAD"

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Main Stories:  
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Reports and photographs of U.S. presidential candidates and voters dominate above the fold coverage on the front pages of Al Ayyam and Al Quds. Both papers note the historic aspect of the elections. Al Quds runs a smaller, highlighted front page article on the topic. Al Ayyam wonders if "a black man can really enter the White House," and runs additional coverage on inside pages including a highlight about Syria's satisfaction over President Bush's departure from office.

Al Hayat Al Jadida leads with a photo of a frightened Palestinian youth, holding his hands up in surrender amidst Israeli soldiers, one of whom has his weapon trained on the boy. The photo captures events during a November 3 incursion by Israeli military into Farah refugee camp, north of the West Bank city of Nablus. The paper's lead article highlights statements by "an Arab diplomat" commenting that Palestinian reconciliation talks in Cairo are at a crossroads and stressing that if talks fail now, reconciliation would, "have to wait for years to come." The paper continues and an Al Quds front-page report notes that Palestinian Authority President Abbas has pledging to do his best to ensure the success of talks. Meanwhile, Al Ayyam and Ma'an report on statements by Hamas chief Misha'al calling for Abbas to attend sessions of more "comprehensive" talks that would include discussions on arrests of Hamas activists by the Palestinian Authority.

All front pages highlight President Abbas' visit to Romania and his statements that there will be no peace agreement with Israel until new administrations are in place in Israel and the United States. In related reporting, Al Ayyam and Al Hayat Al Jadida front page statements by Israeli Foreign Minister Livni dismissing any

possibility of Israeli agreement to a "soft, interim" agreement with Palestinians, before the end of 2008.

Al Ayyam and Al Hayat Al Jadida highlight front page reports about Israeli settler attacks on Palestinians on November 3. Al Ayyam publishes two front page reports, noting that three Palestinians were attacked in Hebron, where settlers also attacked a Palestinian boy and stole his olive harvest. Al Hayat Al Jadida reports that Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian cars on a Jericho road. The paper quotes Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Fayyad stating that, "aggressive practices by settlers against (Palestinian) farmers will badly affect the future of the peace process." The paper also reports that Israeli military dismantled four settlement outposts near Ramallah. Finally, Al Quds front page reports that Britain is taking stronger measures against the import of products from Israeli West Bank settlements and urging E.U. member states to do the same.

The three papers front page statements by Jordanian King Abdullah rejecting any change to the Islamic identity of Jerusalem, in a response to Israeli excavations and construction near the Old City of Jerusalem. Abdullah's statements were made in a November 3 meeting with UNESCO in Amman.

The three papers front page reports that Hamas member Aziz Dwayk was taken from Israeli detention to a hospital for urgent surgery. The papers report that Hamas holds Israel responsible for Dwayk's health.

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JERUSALEM 00001991 002 OF 002

BLOCK QUOTES:

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1) Al Quds editorial opines under the title, "Which settlement outposts are they talking about?" (11/04): "The Israeli cabinet has decided to stop direct and indirect funding to what it referred to as 'settlement outposts'... Israeli Minister Haim Ramon frankly stated that the Palestinians are subjected to a racial discrimination policy [by Israel] and that the Israeli settlers are enjoying treatment that they do not deserve... Is this a belated wakeup to the practices of Israeli settlers, that we know well and have suffered from for years? Could this promised measure [to stop funding] be the beginning of a new policy? We very much doubt that, since the talk about settlement outposts suggests that there are "legal," regulated settlements, which is not true. If this issue were discussed seriously, it would have to discuss settlements as a whole thereby seeking a serious horizon for realizing peace."

2) Columnist Abu Sariyya writes in Al Ayyam under the title, "American elections: The world awaits change" (11/04): "Unless there is a great surprise, Barack Obama will be sworn in as the next U.S. President... There is a need [for the U.S.] to give [Arab] people the right to self determination and to arrange their internal affairs in Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine, free of American interference as is the case in Iraq or the case of the U.S. replacing the U.N. and even the Quartet as the "manager" of Israeli/Palestinian dialogue, as has happened since Annapolis... It is time, then, for America to "lead" the world... instead of using a "big stick" as the Republican Bush administration has done".

Wallis